

OCT 25 1984

Bob McPherson
State Planning Director
Office of the Governor
Austin, TX 78711

RE: Intergovernmental Review of the New EPA Lead Superfund Sites

Dear Mr. McPherson:

On October 2, 1984, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) listed the proposed updates to the National Priorities List. In Region VI the EPA will take the lead in studying and cleaning up three of these new sites. These sites are: North Cavalcade Street site, South Cavalcade Street site and Koppers Co., Inc. (Texarkana Plant) site.

The following enclosures are provided for State review and comment. Three of the enclosures provide site specific information. The fourth enclosure, Description of the First Phase Activities, is common to each of the sites.

The EPA plans to allocate funds for all three of these sites before December 31, 1984. Since the Intergovernmental Review must be completed prior to EPA allocation of funds, expediency in the completion of the State review and comments will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

/s/ Samuel Nott

Samuel L. Nott, Chief
Superfund Branch

cc: Bryan Dixon, Texas Department of Water Resources

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

SOUTH CAVALCADE STREET SITE

HOUSTON, TEXAS

Site Name and Location

South Cavalcade Street Site (the Site) covers about 45 acres and is located southeast of the Maury-Cavalcade Street intersection in Houston, Texas. This site is about one mile southwest of the intersection of Interstate North Loop 610 and U.S. Route 59.

Site's Rank on the National Priority List

The Site has a Hazardous Ranking System score of 38.7.

Nature of the Problem at the Site

National Lumber and Creosoting Co. operated a wood-treating facility on the Site from 1911 to 1939. The Koppers Co., Inc., acquired ownership of the facility in 1940 and operated a wood-treating facility and a coal tar distillation facility on the Site until 1961.

Three paletized trucking firms developed the Site. In the early 1980's the Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) became interested in the property and contracted Camp, Dresser and McKee to conduct a geotechnical/foundation survey of the Site. Creosote compounds were encountered early in the survey and as a result the MTA redefined the scope of the Camp, Dresser and McKee investigation. The resulting report, "Cavalcade Contaminant Survey," dated July 11, 1983, provides documentation of the pollution. Polynuclear aromatic compounds were found in one location at least 35 feet below the surface (water table at about 10 feet). There is also wide spread surface contamination.

The contaminants include Anthracene, Chrysene, Fluoranthene, Arsenic, Chromium and Zinc. The bond issue that would have financed the Houston mass transit system was defeated and the property is still owned by three firms.

Description of the Activities to be Undertaken during the First Phase

The first phase of activities will consist of the remedial investigation and the feasibility study (RI/FS). The remedial investigation (RI) will be conducted to determine the nature and extent of the pollution at the Site. The remedial investigation will be followed by the feasibility study (FS). The FS will be conducted to develop and evaluate remedial alternatives, and to identify the cost-effective remedial action to be taken at the Site. A detailed explanation of the RI/FS is provided in the enclosed "First Phase Activities, Remedial Investigation, and Feasibility Study."

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Estimated Cost of the First Phase

The EPA has set aside \$490,000 to conduct the RI/FS.

Date on which the Proposed First Phase Would Begin

The EPA will begin the RI/FS in mid-December 1984.

Estimate of when the First Phase is Expected to be Completed

The EPA anticipates completing the RI/FS by August 1986.

Region 6 Project Officer to be Contacted for Additional Information

John Cochran (6AW-SE)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1201 Elm Street
Dallas, Texas 75270
Phone: (214) 767-9705

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

FIRST PHASE ACTIVITIES
REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION AND FEASIBILITY STUDY

The first phase of activities will consist of the remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS). The remedial investigation (RI) will be conducted to determine the nature and extent of the pollution at the site. The remedial investigation will be followed by the feasibility study (FS). The FS will be conducted to develop and evaluate remedial alternatives, and to identify the cost-effective remedial action to be taken at the site.

The RI can be divided into eight tasks. The FS can also be broken into eight tasks. A summarization of the first eight tasks is provided as follows.

TASK 1 -- DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT SITUATION

The purpose of this phase is to gather, organize, and review the background information pertinent to the site and its problems. This task can be subdivided into three subtasks.

- a. Site Background. Summarize the regional location, pertinent area boundary features, and general site physiography, hydrology, and geology.
- b. Nature and Extent of Problem. Summarize the actual and potential on-site and off-site health and environmental effects. This may include, but is not limited to, the types, physical states, and amounts of the hazardous substances, the pathways of exposure, contaminate releases, and any human exposure.
- c. History of Response Actions. Summarize any previous response actions conducted by either local, State, Federal, or private parties including the site inspections, other technical reports, and their results. The scope of the RI will be developed to address the problems and questions that have resulted from the previous work at the site.

TASK 2 -- INVESTIGATION SUPPORT

There are five areas of consideration in Task 2.

- a. Contractor Procurement. Prepare contractor procurement documents and award sub-agreement(s) to secure the services necessary to conduct the RI/FS.
- b. Site Visit. Conduct initial site visits required to become familiar with site topography, access routes, and proximity of receptors to possible contamination, and collect data for preparation of the site safety plan.

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